

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 05481 281840Z
ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 5481

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, TU, CY
SUBJECT: TURKISH CONCERNS OVER HOUSE ACTION ON EMBARGO;
PRISONER EXCHANGE TREATY NEGOTIATION TO BEGIN AUGUST 20

1. MFA SECGEN ELEKDAG CALLED ME IN LATE AFTERNOON JULY 28
TO DISCUSS NEXT WEEK'S VOTE IN THE HOUSE ON THE EMBARGO.
YALIM ERALP, MFA DIRECTOR FOR DEFENSE AGREEMENTS SAT
IN. PECK ACCOMPANIED ME.

2. ELEKDAG SAID THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT HAD TRIED TO
INFLUENCE TURKISH PUBLIC OPINION IN A POSITIVE DIRECTION
TOWARD THE BYRD AMENDMENT. TO THIS END, PRIME MINISTER
ECEVIT'S PUBLIC STATEMENT ON THIS MATTER HAD STRESSED
ASPECTS OF THE AMENDMENT WHICH WERE CONSIDERED PARTICULARLY
POSITIVE FROM TURKEY'S POINT OF VIEW. ESENBEL WAS NOT
REPORTING THAT CONGRESSMEN FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARD TURKEY
WERE ENGAGED IN DRAFTING A NEW RESOLUTION WHICH WOULD
BE SIMILAR TO THE BYRD AMENDMENT AND WHICH MIGHT BE PUT
FORWARD IN CASE A CLEAN LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO PROVED
IMPOSSIBLE IN THE HOUSE.

3. PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT HAD ASKED ELEKDAG TO STRESS
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TO US THAT IT WOULD BE VITAL TO THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT'S
CREDIBILITY WITH ITS OWN PUBLIC THAT ANY RESOLUTION
WHICH MIGHT EMERGE FROM THE HOUSE OR A HOUSE-SENATE
CONFERENCE INCLUDE THE POSITIVE ELEMENTS WHICH HE HAD
IDENTIFIED IN HIS STATEMENT. THESE WERE:
(A) THE RESOLUTION SHOULD ADDRESS NOT ONLY TURKEY, BUT
GREECE AND CYPRUS AS RESPONSIBLE PARTIES TO THE CYPRUS

DISPUTE;

(B) THE RESOLUTION SHOULD SPECIFICALLY MENTION THE
DENKTASH-MAKARIOS AGREEMENT AND SAY THAT THE US SUPPORTS
RESOLUTION OF THE CYPRUS PROBLEM IN THIS FRAMEWORK.

4. ERALP INTERJECTED THAT HE WANTED TO BE SURE WE DID
NOT MISUNDERSTAND TURKEY'S POINT REGARDING MENTION OF
GREECE IN THE HOUSE RESOLUTION. ERALP REMINDED ME THAT
FOREIGN MINISTER OKCUN, IN HIS CONVERSATION WITH ME JULY 24, HAD
CRITICIZED THE DRAFT BYRD AMENDMENT AND SINGLED OUT THE PASSAGE
WHICH SEEMS TO INJECT THE UNITED STATES INTO BILATERAL GREEK-
TURKISH AFFAIRS. (THE PASSAGE READS QUOTE THE UNITED STATES
SHALL ACTIVELY SUPPORT THE RESOLUTION OF DIFFERENCES
THROUGH INTERNATIONALLY ESTABLISHED PEACEFUL PROCEDURES,
SHALL ENCOURAGE ALL PARTIES TO AVOID PROVOCATIVE ACTIONS,
AND SHALL STRONGLY OPPOSE ANY ATTEMPT TO RESOLVE DISPUTES
THROUGH FORCE OR THREAT OF FORCE. UNQUOTE THE TURKS
CONTINUE TO OBJECT TO THIS PASSAGE, SINCE THEY RECOGNIZE
IT AS HAVING BEEN LIFTED FROM THE KISSINGER-BITSIOS LETTER
ON THE AEGEAN. ON THE OTHER HAND, OTHER PASSAGES IN THE
AMENDMENT WHICH IDENTIFY GREECE AND CYPRUS, AS WELL AS
TURKEY, AS RESPONSIBLE FOR SETTLEMENT OF THE CYPRUS
DISPUTE WERE VIEWED BY THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT AS
A WELCOME EXPRESSION OF US EVEN-HANDEDNESS.

5. ON THE PRISONER EXCHANGE TREATY, ELEKDAG SAID ESENBEL
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HAD REPORTED THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF AN EARLY DATE
WERE SET ON WHICH NEGOTIATIONS COULD BEGIN. ELEKDAG SAID
THAT TURKEY WOULD BE PREPARED TO RECEIVE AN AMERICAN
NEGOTIATING TEAM ON AUGUST 20. HE ADDED THAT THE MFA
WAS WORKING HARD TO PREPARE ITS POSITION SO THAT IT
WOULD BE READY TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS ON THAT DATE. HE
ADDED THAT AMBASSADOR SENTURK WOULD SEE ME MONDAY MORNING
TO DISCUSS DETAILS. DILLON

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